

Message Text

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FOR TRATTNER FROM PA

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TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT WASHINGTON STAR ARTICLE BY JEREMIAH O'LEARY, THURSDAY, JANUARY 5 HEADED "VANCE TO VISIT FOUR CITIES TO PUSH CANAL TREATIES; FOES PLAN SEVEN-CITY TOUR."

2. SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS R. VANCE NEXT WEEK PERSONALLY WILL LAUNCH THE ADMINISTRATION'S 1978 DRIVE TO SELL THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WITH A FOUR-STOP TRIP ACROSS THE NATION IN THREE DAYS.

3. VANCE'S EXPEDITION SIGNALS THE BEGINNING OF AN ALL-OUT ADMINISTRATION EFFORT TO WIN SENATE RATIFICATION OF THE TREATIES SIGNED BY PRESIDENT CARTER AND PANAMA'S CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT, BRIG. GEN. OMAR TORRIJOS.

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4. ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ISSUE, PLANS ARE NEARLY COMPLETE FOR A FIVE-DAY TRIP TO SEVEN U.S. CITIES BY A GROUP OF LAWMAKERS OPPOSED TO THE TREATIES.

5. COMPLETE WITH A CHARTERED DC-9 JETLINER, A FOUR-PERSON PUBLIC RELATIONS STAFF, DAILY SPEECHES, RALLIES AND TELEVI-

SION APPEARANCES, THE GROUP OF SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN WILL BEGIN THEIR TRIP JAN. 16, SAID WILLIAM F. RHATICAN.

6. AND A SENATOR WHO HOLDS A CRUCIAL VOTE IN THAT PROCESS PREDICTED YESTERDAY THAT THE SENATE WILL REJECT THE PACTS UNLESS REVISIONS ARE MADE.

7. SENATE MINORITY LEADER HOWARD BAKER, WHO IS TOURING PANAMA, REPORTEDLY SAID IN PANAMA CITY YESTERDAY THAT THE TREATIES COULD WIN HIS VOTE AND ENOUGH BIPARTISAN SUPPORT FOR APPROVAL IF "UNDERSTANDINGS" WERE MADE TO CLARIFY CERTAIN PROVISIONS ON THE CANAL'S FUTURE DEFENSES.

8. "IN ITS PRESENT FORM I DON'T THINK THE TREATY HAS A PRAYER" OF PASSING THE SENATE, BAKER SAID.

9. BAKER, WHO IS RUNNING FOR RE-ELECTION TO HIS TENNESSEE SEAT THIS YEAR AND WHO IS CONSIDERED TO HAVE PRESIDENTIAL AMBITIONS, WAS INVITED TO VISIT PANAMA BY TORRIJOS IN AN EFFORT TO WIN SENATE RATIFICATION OF THE TREATIES.

10. ASPECTS THAT BAKER SAID NEEDED CLARIFICATION INCLUDE PROVISIONS FOR THE US-PANAMANIAN DEFENSE OF THE CANAL AFTER IT IS TURNED OVER TO PANAMA BY THE YEAR 2000 AND THE QUESTION OF WHETHER A SEA-LEVEL CANAL

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MIGHT BE BUILT TO REPLACE THE PRESENT ONE.

11. BAKER ALSO SAID THAT THE FACT THAT NEITHER CARTER NOR TORRIJOS SIGNED A CLARIFYING STATEMENT ISSUED SEPT. 7 IN WASHINGTON RAISED A PROBLEM. IN THAT STATEMENT, THE TWO LEADERS AGREED THAT THE TREATIES' INTENT WAS FOR THE UNITED STATES AND PANAMA TO SHARE THE TASK OF KEEPING THE CANAL OPEN AND NEUTRAL AFTER THE YEAR 2000. THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION SAYS THIS DOES NOT RULE OUT US MILITARY INTERVENTION TO DEFEND THE CANAL.

12. VANCE WILL BEGIN TAKING A FRONT-LINE POSITION FOR THE TREATIES WEDNESDAY WHEN HE BEGINS HIS THREE-DAY TRIP TO CHARLESTON, W.VA.; LOUISVILLE, KY.; NEW ORLEANS, LA.; AND LOS ANGELES.

13. RHATICAN, SPOKESMAN FOR THE ANTI-CANAL LAWMAKERS, SAID YESTERDAY THAT THE GROUP HAS A BUDGET OF BETWEEN DOLS 75,000 AND DOLS 100,000, WHICH WILL BE FINANCED BY DONATIONS FROM A HALF-DOZEN CONSERVATIVE GROUPS AS WELL AS INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS.

14. CALLING THEMSELVES THE "PANAMA CANAL TRUTH SQUAD," THE GROUP PLANS TO VISIT NASHVILLE, TENN.; ATLANTA; MIAMI; CINCINNATI; ST. LOUIS; DENVER; AND PORTLAND, OREG.

15. THE DELEGATION IS TO BE HEADED BY SEN. PAUL LAXALT, R-NEV., AND REP. PHILIP M. CRANE, R-ILL. FIFTEEN TO 20 LAWMAKERS ARE EXPECTED TO JOIN THE GROUP FOR SOME OR ALL OF THE TRIP, RHATICAN SAID.

16. THE TREATIES CANNOT GO INTO EFFECT UNTIL TWO-THIRDS OF THE SENATE VOTES APPROVAL. THIS SHOWDOWN VOTE, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO COME BEFORE EASTER, UNCLASSIFIED

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WOULD REQUIRE 67 FAVORABLE VOTES IF ALL 100 SENATORS VOTE; IN OTHER WORDS, 34 NEGATIVE VOTES COULD DEFEAT THE TREATIES.

17. BAKER'S DEMOCRATIC COUNTERPART, MAJORITY LEADER ROBERT C. BYRD OF WEST VIRGINIA, SO FAR HAS DECLINED TO COMMIT HIMSELF PUBLICLY ON THE TREATIES. BAKER, ALTHOUGH PREDICTING DEFEAT FOR THE TREATIES IN THEIR CURRENT FORM, DID NOT EXPLICITLY SAY HOW HE WILL VOTE.

18. LIKE ALMOST ALL MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS, BYRD AND BAKER HAVE BEEN RECEIVING MAIL THAT IS OVERWHELMINGLY AGAINST WHAT OPPONENTS CALL THE GIVEAWAY OF THE CANAL. HOWEVER, BYRD IS EXPECTED TO MAKE HIS ANNOUNCEMENT SOON, AND IT IS BELIEVED THAT HE WILL LOYALLY PLACE HIMSELF AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE RATIFICATION EFFORT.

19. ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS HAVE SAID THAT A DECISION BY BAKER TO ACTIVELY OPPOSE THE TREATIES WOULD BE A SEVERE BLOW TO THE RATIFICATION STRUGGLE.

20. THE BITTER FIGHT AGAINST THE TREATY IS BEING LED BY CONSERVATIVE REPUBLICANS SUCH AS ROBERT DOLE OF KANSAS, STROM THURMOND OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND JESSE HELMS OF NORTH CAROLINA.

21. BUT BAKER, AS MINORITY LEADER AND AS A SOUTHERN MODERATE, HAS A FOLLOWING THAT, ADDED TO THE CONSERVATIVES' VOTES MIGHT TAKE RATIFICATION JUST OUT OF REACH FOR CARTER.

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22. IF THE SENATE REJECTS THE TREATIES, MOST AUTHORITIES AGREE, THERE WILL BE A VIOLENT REACTION IN PANAMA THAT TORRIJOS PROBABLY COULD NOT PREVENT. THE CHANCES OF FIGHTING BETWEEN PANAMANIAN CITIZENS AND AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES ARE CONSIDERED ALMOST CERTAIN IF THE TREATY FAILS TO PASS THE SENATE. LATIN LEADERS HAVE WARNED OF A VIETNAM-LIKE SITUATION IF PANAMA'S ASPIRATIONS ARE NOT MET.

23. PANAMA HAS RATIFIED THE TREATIES IN A PLEBISCITE IN WHICH MORE THAN 67 PERCENT OF THE VOTERS APPROVED OF THE PACTS. CHRISTOPHER

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